

Silas Wood House
Middleborough, Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-331

HABS
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Massachusetts

Historic American Buildings Survey
Frank Chouteau Brown, District Officer
78 Chestnut Street, Boston, Mass.

ADDENDUM TO
STLAS WOOD HOUSE
Middleborough
Plymouth County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-331

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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ADDENDUM 72:

SILAS WOOD HOUSE

HABS
MASS
12-MIDDLEBOROUGH
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HABS No. MA-331

Location: Middleborough, Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

Significance: One of the few remaining examples of a gambrel roofed residence, and early farm house, in Middleborough.

Description: Facing southeast, Silas Wood's frame house terminates in a gambrel roof. Five bays across, the south facade's central bay contains the entrance door. This bay is emphasized visually by the chimney jutting upward through the rooftop. The gable ends are broad and punctuated by two large windows and three smaller lights. The small windows are two-over-two sash; they appear on each side of the large window group and one appears centered above the two larger windows. The exterior wall fabric is clapboard. Wings have been added to the side (southwest) and rear (northwest) elevations.

Despite a 1771 date on the chimney, construction techniques belie an earlier age. The depth of the gable ends, the center chimney (location outweighing date here), gable end fenestration, low first story, and stone foundation imply an early eighteenth-century date.

History: Built by Middleborough's only shopkeeper, Silas Wood, this structure represents the eighteenth-century farmsteads along the Nemasket River. Silas Wood left the house to his grand-son, Abiel Wood, who followed Silas into the retail business. Abiel opened the first store on Center Street with William S. Andrews. This man married Maria A. Wood; the Andrews eventually owned the house.

Sources: Historic Buildings of Massachusetts, edited by John C. Poppeliers. Scribner Historic Building Series. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. Photographic catalogue of historic buildings, built primarily during the colonial and federal periods.

Inventory Form, Massachusetts Historical Commission, 1985.